GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:920
ANSWERED ON:23.10.2008
STRAY WILD ANIMALS ON RUNWAY AT IGIA
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Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether secondary runway at the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) had to be closed recently for nearly an hour and about 100 flights got delayed after 2 - 3 feet long Monitor Lizard on Lizard strolled on the runway and some jackals were sighted;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether steps have been taken to stop such incidents in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a) and (b):- On 01/06/2008 at 0930 IST, 6 monitor lizards appeared on runway 09/27 at the runway shoulder grass area and the Air Traffic Control immediately closed the said runway for operations. The monitor lizards were trapped and removed from runway and the runway was made operational at 1040 IST. Similarly on 16/06/2008, a jackal was sighted on runway 10/28 at 1049 IST. This resulted in a go - around of Jet Airways flight.

(c) and (d):- Yes, Sir. To avoid bird hit cases and entry of stray/wild animals, Airfield Environment Management Committees have been constituted at those airport where scheduled flights operate to identify the sources of stray animals/ bird attraction and take remedial steps like proper disposal of garbage, prevention of water logging, coverage of garbage dalaos, establishment of modern abattoirs, scaring and shooting of birds, fencing of airport periphery etc.